



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. Box 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No. 18

Robert H. Epstein
1901 Research Boulevard
Suite 340
Rockville, MD 20850

COPY MAILED

OCT 04 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,066,303 :
Issue Date: May 23, 2000 :
Application No. 09/211,879 :
Filed: December 14, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 1370.111.US :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 26, 2004, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued May 23, 2000. Accordingly, the first maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from May 23, 2003 through November 23, 2003, or with a surcharge during the period from November 24, 2003 through May 23, 2004. This patent expired on May 24, 2004. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the patent. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature of Robert Epstein appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he acts. However, if Mr. Epstein desires to receive future correspondence regarding this patent, an appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent and "Fee Address" form (see PTO/SB/47) must be submitted.

Further, it is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay, namely Mr. Epstein, was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the

delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3223.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marianne E. Jenkins".

Marianne E. Jenkins

Petitions Examiner

Office of Petitions

Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy